

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 02261 121142Z

21

ACTION AF-08

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O 121115Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2491

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2261

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDIP GV US

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF AMERICAN GUESTS AT NOVEMBER 22
CELEBRATIONS

REFS: (E) CONAKRY 2250 (B) STATE 278089

1. SENATOR CLARK'S ITINERARY IS PROBABLY QUITE FIRM AT THIS LATE
DATE, BUT BELIEVE THERE ARE STRONG ARGUMENTS THAT HIS PARTICIPA-
TION WOULD SERVE US INTERESTS:

(A) THIS EVENT COMMEMORATES MOST TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE IN HISTORY
OF GUINEA AND OVERSHADOWS INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OR OTHER
CELEBRATIONS. EXTENSION OF INVITATION TO SENATOR IS A SIGNIFICANT
GESTURE BY GOG. THE 1970 INVASION LAUNCHED VICIOUS PURGES AND
ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA ORGY, AND THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE PLENTY
OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-COLONIALIST RHETORIC. HOWEVER, WE CAN
BE CONFIDENT THAT SEKOU TOURE WOULD AVOID ATTACKS ON U.S. OR
OTHER REMARKS INSULTING TO SENATOR. IN FACT, SENATOR WOULD BE A
STAR GUEST AT THIS INTERNATIONAL EVENT AND HIS PRESENCE COULD BE
EXPECTED TO LEND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT TO PROCEEDINGS.

(B) SENATOR'S VISIT WOULD SERVE TO REINFORCE OUR EFFORT
TO OBTAIN MORE GENUINE GUINEAN NON-ALIGNMENT. PRIMIN BEAVOGUI
DURING MEETING ON SECURITY MATTERS THIS MORNING (SEPTTEL) NOTED
THAT GOG WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME MORE SENIOR AMERICAN VISITORS
SUCH AS SENATOR CLARK. HE REGRETTEED THAT THERE HAD BEEN FEWER
SUCH VISITORS IN RECENT YEARS THAN DURING 1960S.

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PAGE 02 CONAKR 02261 121142Z

(C) CHAIRMAN OF AFRICA SUB-COMMITTEE SHOULD BENEFIT FROM

FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF GUINEA AS ONE OF MORE IMPORTANT SITES OF U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN AFRICA, AS MAJOR WORLD SOURCE OF KEY MINERALS, AS PECULIAR ENDURING STIMULUS TO AFRICAN RADICALISM, AND AS SOVIET STRATEGIC TOEHOLD, AND WOULD FIND INTERVIEW WITH SEKOU TOURE STIMULATING. AS SENATOR KNOWS, TOURE HAS VERY STRONG AND CAREFULLY THOUGHT-OUT VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE ANGOLA AFFAIR.

2. IF SENATOR'S SCHEDULE FOR NEXT TEN DAYS IS TOO FIRM TO CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT NOVEMBER 22 CEREMONIES, PERHAPS HE COULD ADD A VISIT TO GUINEA LATER BEFORE HIS RETURN TO U.S.

3. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY PRETORIA TO MENTION THESE CONSIDERATIONS TO SENATOR.
HARROP

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NNN

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